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AUTHOR Goldberg, Sally
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ABSTRACT

This paper outlines a sample format for a fast-moving, enjoyable, half-hour television show designed to introduce infants to the academic areas of self-awareness, colors, letters, numbers, shapes, and reading. As envisioned, the program will also include music, information aiding parents in developing their infant's gross and fine motor abilities, advice on child development, and directions for making and ordering appropriate toys. An animated character, Mr. Computer, will be an integral part of the televised activities. Specified variable aspects of programing include gross motor exercises, toy-making activities, and the topic, objects, and color of the day. Participants, including the teacher, parents, and babies, will be dressed in the color of the day, and the color of most of the toys for the babies will be coordinated with that of actors' costumes. The general objective of the program is to provide a stimulating learning situation for babies while providing the parent with an opportunity to learn constructive activities to share with the child. Much of the information presented in the show is based on the book, "Teaching with Toys," by Sally Goldberg.
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T.V. for Tots

by

Sally Goldberg

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Current research tells us the first three years of life are important years for the development of children. Patterns established at this time will influence later learning. Because of the many conveniences of modern times, baby care is easier today. More time is available for today's parents to play with and stimulate their children. Proper information should be made available to them so that they can properly provide an educational as well as emotionally supportive environment. In recent years there has been a baby boom, and there is a large and growing population of new mothers. Because many mothers are far from their own mothers who used to be the ones to pass on valuable information on childrearing, they need additional support to meet the needs of their own babies effectively.

The focus of this show will be on introducing baby to the academic areas of self-awareness, colors, letters, numbers, shapes, and reading. It will also include information on developing him in the gross motor and fine motor areas. Music will be an important part of the show, along with advice on child development and how to make and order certain appropriate toys. The program will move fast and be an enjoyable half hour for both babies and parents. Mr. Computer, an animated character will be an integral part of the activities.

A sample show format follows. The parts that will change each time are the color of the day, the gross motor exercises, the objects of the day, the topic of the day, and the make-a-toy sections. The teacher, parents and babies will all be dressed in the color of the day, and most of the toys for the babies will be in that color.

The objective of the program is to provide baby with a stimulating learning situation while at the same time providing the parent with an opportunity to learn constructive activities to share with the child. Much of the information is based on the book TEACHING WITH TOYS by Sally Goldberg published by The University of Michigan Press.

Sample Daily Show Format

Approximate Time

- 11:00 - 11:01 30 second advertisement
- 11:01 - 11:02 Show introduction with music and animated pictures about the day of the week, scenes of babies involved in different daily activities at home and out.
- 11:02 - 11:08 Teacher with four babies and four parents in a group. She does songs with parents and babies in a group:
- "Where is ____?"
- "Ten Little Indians"
- "The Grand Old Duke of York"
- "Dance Little Baby"
- "ABC Song"
- Mr. Computer comes on the scene watching the group. The teacher stops and explains to him what she is going to do next with the color toys. He says he can help, and the two of them interact with this concept.
- 11:08 - 11:10 1½ minutes advertisement
- 11:10 - 11:14 The teacher continues with her activity with a color box, color book, and color card. Each parent and baby have their own set.

Mr. Computer comes on the screen again. The teacher stops and explains to him that she is going to do exercises with the babies. Again he says he can help, and the two of them interact with this concept.

11:14 - 11:16 1½ minutes advertisement

11:16 - 11:20 Parents do exercises with their babies. Special emphasis will be given to a particular age baby. Mr. Computer comes on the scene again. The teacher stops and explains what she is going to do with the objects of the day that relate to self-awareness, colors, letters, numbers, shapes, and reading. Again he says he can help, and the two of them interact with this concept.

The objects: Name card

Giant Letter

Giant Number

Giant Shape

Large Stuffed Animal

Large Person Doll

11:20 - 11:24 Discuss topic of the day

11:24 - 11:29 Guest expert answers one or two questions by callers or sent in by letters. Teacher shows

how to make a simple toy out of easily accessible household materials. End with information on ordering specific toys, the book TEACHING WITH TOYS, and other useful items. Then give the address for sending in questions.

11:29 - 11:30 30 second advertisement
